THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No, Sir, Applications for allotment of STD/ISD/PCOs are pending for more than two years only in some areas of 4 telecom districts of Rajasthan namely Banswara, Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Pali.

(b) These are pendign due to non-availability of STD facility in the exchanges, inadequate junctions and technical non feasibility.

(c) The steps taken include installation of Wireless in Local Loop equipment laying of undergound cables and Optical Fiber Cable links.

Internet Facilities in Rajasthan

5266. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the cities of Rajasthan where internet facilities have been provided during 2000-01 or proposed to be provided, district-wise; and

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) All the cities in Rajasthan have been provided Internet facilities during 2000-2001.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

CII's Ten Point Agenda for Promotion of Hot Sites

5267. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has proposed a ten point agenda for promotion of hot sites in India by a consortium of call centre companies, based on the need and demand equation as per the DoT guidelines;

(b) whether these hot sites have been proposed with a view to keep the operations on even in the event of disasters like earthquakes, fire,

bomb explosion etc.;

(c) whether Government have examined the proposal; and

(d) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Government, after examining the proposals given by CII, have permitted setting up of independent hot sites to keep the operations on the case of disaster. These hot sites, would require to be registered as a hot site Call Centre. The Indepedent hot site provider will provide the infrastructure i.e. building, main server, agent positions, power plant, air conditioner etc. The various call centres desirous of availaing hot site facility would provide, dedicated servers/routers at the hot site and necessary leased circuits.

Sankhya Vahini

5268. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to proceed further with the proposal for setting up "Sankhya Vahini"; and

(b) if so, the reasons which have contributed to dropping of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Sankhya Vahini project has been shelved in the wake of Carnegie Mellon University (CMU), Pittsburg, USA withdrawing from the project.

Opening of Telephone Exchanges in Villages of UP

5269. SHRI HARENDRA SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the existing norms for opening of telephone exchange in a village;